

[WXXI Top Stories](#)**Greece Superintendant Draws Cheers**

Bud Lowell



Dr. Elizabeth Keller-Cogan reacts to ovation from crowd at Apollo Middle School auditorium. WXXI photo

ROCHESTER, NY (2005-09-23) More than 300 parents, teachers and principals packed into a special meeting of the Greece Central School District Board Friday night after rumors spread that Superintendent Elizabeth Keller-Cogan's job was on the line.

They held signs supporting Doctor Keller-Cogan and gave her a 10 minute cheering ovation before the meeting could get underway. And they frequently interrupted with questions

School board members said it was a false alarm. But Board President Kenneth Walsh ended up apologizing to the community. He said "there's a level of distrust and suspicion in our community...when you have a procedural meeting on Friday night people are justifiably concerned."

Greece board members approved a resolution hiring an outside consultant to do an independent review of a federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission complaint that was brought against the district.

Walsh says that was the entire point of the meeting, and it was held on a Friday night because the matter was urgent. He said no comment could be made about the complaint because it involves personnel matters, but the district is not contemplating firing anyone over it.

Relations between parts of the Greece Community and its school board were strained when the former leadership of the board abolished public forums at board meetings. A new majority was elected in May, and took over in July.

Walsh says the school board will gradually build trust by doing its business in front of the community and making sure discussion is open-ended. But he and the board were jeered when they ended the meeting.

Keller-Cogan left the meeting smiling, but without comment.

Board member Larry Sweet says he was glad to see the turnout in support of Doctor Keller-Cogan.

Gale O'Toole is secretary of the Greece PTA Council. She's not convinced that firing Keller-Cogan or asking her to leave wasn't on the agenda Friday night. She says the support that turned out may have changed minds, and she hopes it will keep turning out for other important issues.

PTAs sent a flurry of e-mails to parents and teachers, pushing for a strong turnout in support of the superintendent.

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